

Garvey died in relative obscurity, suffering the final indignity while recovering from a stroke after reading in the African American *Chicago Defender* his own obituary on May 18, 1940 a month before his death on the 10th of June 1940:

*Alone, deserted by his followers, broke and unpopular, Marcus Garvey, once leader of the greatest mass organization ever assembled by a member of the Race, died here during the last week in April.*¹



Garvey was recognized as Jamaica's first national hero and his bones were interred in National Heroes Park, in Jamaica twenty years after his death in London.

Garvey's greatest legacy is not his failed businesses or the memories of his oratorical genius. Garvey is captured well in the ringing words of one of his sons' who wrote editorials in Jamaican newspapers, *The Gleaner* and *The Observer* on February 6, 2001 after the screening of the PBS documentary, "Look for me in the Whirlwind." Dr. Julius Garvey painstakingly corrected inaccuracies in the film and wrote,

I do not need to tell a Jamaican readership of the many accomplishments of Marcus Garvey between 1927 and 1935 in Jamaica.

To end a documentary on our 1st National Hero, hero of the Americans and a hero to Millions of Africans, those at home and those abroad, climaxes the many distortions of fact, lies and character assassinations that are so numerous that I cannot include them all here.

One can only ask, why?

Perhaps it is a situation of 'who pays the piper calls the tune.'

I prefer to be charitable and say, 'My father forgive them for they know not what they do.'

Sincerely,

*Julius W. Garvey, M. D.*²



And the *Observer*:

I will close by quoting Frank Hill in the Daily Gleaner, 17th August 1960 under the caption—”The Prophet of Black Zionism,” he states in part; “What makes a man great? It is, I think, the universal quality of the contribution he makes to the civilization of his times. The accent is on the word universal, for the quality of his vision must be such as to be able to hold the attention of mankind, rather than mere isolated pockets of men grouped in special circumstances....”

I agree with the attestation of Frank Hill to Garvey’s greatness and I am equally sure that he would agree with me that mediocrity cannot tarnish the brilliance of our shining Jamaican Black Star, Marcus Mosiah Garvey.

Sincerely,

*Julius W. Garvey, M. D.*³

References

- [1] “Marcus Garvey - a summary,” from <http://www.historyinanhour.com/2011/06/10/marcus-garvey-summary/>
- [2] “Garvey’s Son Responds to PBS Film,” from <http://www.trinicenter.com/historicalviews/garvey.htm>
- [3] Ibid.